

LL.M. Degree

Note: Please also refer to the registration letter sent to you by the Program Director for details on registration and the LL.M. Program. LL.M.s should also review The What's What, as all general law school policies applicable to J.S. also apply to LL.M.s except as noted, as well as our website: http://law.lclark.edu/dept/elaw/llm_home.html

Overview of Program Requirements: U.S. Students

To obtain the LL.M. degree, LL.M. students must earn a minimum of 26 semester hours of credit with a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or better. Students who opt to do a thesis must earn at least a "C" on the thesis.

Of the 26 credits, two apply towards the required LL.M. seminar. At least 18 of the 26 total credits must be from the environmental/natural resources curriculum. All classes listed as environmental/natural resources classes in the law school's registration materials, including summer environmental classes, count towards the 18 "environmental credits," except Administrative Law and Environmental Law. Credits earned in Administrative Law and Environmental Law count towards the 26 total credits needed, but not towards the 18 "environmental credits." The two credits of the LL.M. seminar do count towards the 18 "environmental credits," as do the 6 credits of thesis, if a student elects to do a thesis.

Students who have not taken Administrative Law or a survey Environmental Law class in law school fairly recently must take those classes as a LL.M. at Lewis & Clark as they are important foundational courses. Students may take those classes in the summer or during the regular year. In some cases, students who did not take these two classes in law school, but who have substantial practice experience in administrative or environmental law, may request permission from the program director to waive those courses. As noted above, if you need to take either or both of these classes at Lewis & Clark, they will count towards the 26 total credits needed for the degree, but not towards the 18 "environmental credits" needed.

In order to be sure you are meeting the requirements for the LL.M. degree in terms of total credits and correct number of "environmental credits," students are asked to submit their proposed schedules each semester to the program director and to inform the director of any schedule changes.

Overview of Program Requirements: International Students

To obtain the LL.M. degree, international students must earn a minimum of 26 semester hours of credit. International students are graded on a "credit/no credit" basis in all classes. International students may choose to have letter grades appear on their transcript.

Of the 26 credits, two apply towards the required LL.M. seminar. Of the remaining 24 credits, at least 18 credits must be environmental or natural resources classes. International students do not complete a written thesis.

International students are required to take Environmental Law (unless they took a similar course recently at a U.S. law school). This class counts towards the 18 credits you need in the environmental and natural resources curriculum. We also *strongly recommend* that international students take Administrative Law.

LL.M. Seminar: All Students

All LL.M.s need to register for one credit of the Graduate Environmental Seminar in each of *two* semesters (two credits total). Attendance is required for all LL.M.s. Other participants in the LL.M seminar will include the natural resources faculty and staff, and visiting scholars and fellows. Students will prepare a 20-30 page paper as part of the seminar on an environmental or natural resources law topic of their choice and will be graded in the seminar on their overall participation in the seminar, class presentation on their paper, and the paper.

Course Load/Timing

LL.M.s must register for a minimum of 5 credits each semester, except for summer school and the student's final semester if less than 5 credits are needed to complete the degree. If a student wishes to take less than 5 credits in any semester that is not summer or the final semester, they must request permission to "underload" from the Program Director. Note that a student must be registered for at least 5 credits each semester to be considered a full-time LL.M. student. Being less than a full-time student may impact a student's ability to defer loan repayments (depending on the lender), so please plan accordingly.

LL.M.s have a total of two and one-half years in which to complete the degree. Extensions are granted only in exceptional circumstances upon written request to the Program Director. LL.M. students who are unable to complete all degree requirements may be eligible to receive a Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law instead of the degree.

Course Availability

All courses offered at the law school are open to LL.M. students, except for externships, moot court, (except Merhige National Environmental Competition, which permits LL.M.s to compete) law review, and courses for which an LL.M. student has already received credit in obtaining the J.D. or other degree. Internships and other practical experiences are available to LL.M.s. These include the **Environmental Clinic** (working with the on-campus Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center); the **International Environmental Law Project** (working with the on-campus international environmental clinic); and **Clinical Internship Seminar: Environmental/Natural Resources** (working part-time with an environmental lawyer or legal organization in Portland and attending a weekly class meeting.) You may also register for an **Individual Research** project with a faculty member. Consult the Course Description book for details on these opportunities.

Thesis (LL.M.)

U.S. students who want to complete a written thesis should register for six thesis credits. Students cannot register for less than six credits for the thesis. The Program Director will work with students to assign a thesis advisor and two readers.

Note that once a student is no longer registered for credit and is only working on the thesis, they are no longer considered an enrolled student for purposes of school insurance coverage, repayment of loans, etc.

Leave of Absence/Withdrawal

Students who need to take a temporary leave of absence from the program must request a leave in writing of the Program Director. The request must specify the basis for the requested leave and the estimated length of the leave. In the absence of unusual circumstances, leaves will be granted for one semester only. If the leave is requested and granted prior to the start of the published first day of the semester, the student will not be required to pay tuition for that semester. If the leave of absence is requested and granted after the published first day of the semester, the semester tuition charges will be adjusted. The tuition charges are pro rated in accordance with the percentage of the semester completed, that the official date of withdrawal corresponds to.

For students who receive financial assistance from the College, refunds are calculated according to federal regulations and will be refunded to the appropriate programs before funds are released to the student.

During the semester of leave, the student will be exempt from paying the thesis continuation fee (if applicable) and administrative fee. If the leave is extended beyond one semester, the Program Director has the discretion to decide whether to apply the thesis continuation fee. Leaves of one semester will extend the student's 2 ½ year deadline by one semester. The Program Director has the discretion to decide whether to add additional time to the 2 ½ year deadline for students who take leave for greater than one semester.

LL.M Tuition

LL.M. students are charged tuition by the credit hour. LL.M. students also pay a Student Activity and Building Fee of \$85.00 per year.

Add/Drop form available online at http://law.lclark.edu/dept/lawreg/forms_index.html

LL.M. students may register for, add and drop courses throughout the first three weeks of school without penalty. The initial billing will be based on the number of credits registered for at the time of billing. To avoid late charges on tuition, please pay tuition by the time it is due

regardless of possible schedule changes. Your account will be adjusted if you change your schedule within the three week add/drop period after paying your tuition.

PLEASE NOTE the following policy on tuition adjustments for schedule changes (not withdrawals): Dropping classes during the first three weeks: ***Tuition reversed at 100% for dropped credits (as long as student is not dropping all credits)***. Dropping classes after 3 weeks: ***no reversal of tuition charges for schedule adjustment***.

Insurance

All LL.M.s are subject to the same policies on insurance as J.D.S. Please consult the section of this book addressing insurance or visit <http://www.lclark.edu/dept/health/insurance.html> for more details. Please note that you must be a registered student to be eligible for the college's insurance. If you have completed your coursework and are just working on your thesis and are not registered for credits, you are no longer eligible for the college's insurance.

Contacts

If you have any questions about the LL.M. program, please consult the Program Director Janice Weis

at 503-768-6649 or jweis@lclark.edu, or the Assistant Director Lin Harmon Walker at 503-768-6882 or lhw@lclark.edu. You may also visit the website at: http://www.lclark.edu/dept/elaw/llm_home.html